

Idaho Charter School Regional Leadership Council
October Agenda
4 pm– 5 pm

Eastern Idaho Region – October 10, 2007
Western Idaho Region – October 11, 2007
Eastern Idaho Region – October 12, 2007

Welcome and Introductions

Opening Remarks

1. Leadership for Educational Entrepreneurs
2. Overview: Charter Schools in the Nation
3. Overview: Charter Schools in Idaho

Statewide Action Plan Update

1. Provide more equitable funding: *2-3 year legislative plan*
2. Develop public awareness campaign: *statewide messaging*
3. Promote growth and development of quality programs: *Charter Start 101, ICSN workshops, conversion workshop (WORKSHOP ACTIVITY)*
4. Extend innovation to extend to teacher certification/assessment: *teacher certification changes*
5. Streamline state/authorizer paperwork and reporting (WORKLOAD ACTIVITY)

NWREL 10 Year Landmark Study of Idaho Charters

1. Project Introduction and Timeline
2. Steering Committee/Charter School Leadership Council
3. Direction and Scope of Project

Charter School Links: Networking

1. Charter School Leadership Council
2. My School! Newsletter
3. SDE Website: Charter Developers/Current Charters

4. (RESOURCE ACTIVITY)

Summary of the Conference Call (August 13, 2007) Regarding a Statewide Study of Idaho Charter Schools

The Idaho State Department of Education is in partnership with the Northwest Regional Educational Lab (NWREL) in planning a statewide study to reflect on growth and quality of Idaho charter schools over the past ten years. Currently there are 30 charter schools in Idaho serving 8,900 students with about 4,600 on the wait-list.

To get various stakeholders involved in defining the direction and the scope of the study, an Advisory Committee was formed:

Tom Luna, State Superintendent of Education

Shirley Rau, School Choice Coordinator, Idaho State Department of Education

Luci Willits, Chief of Staff, State Department of Education

Tamara Baysinger, Charter Schools Program Manager, Public charter School Commission

Ken Burgess, Coalition of Idaho Charter School Families

Representative Bob Nonini, Idaho Legislature, Head of House Education Committee

Commissioner Paul Powell, Idaho Public Charter School Commission

Rob Sauer, Deputy Superintendent, SDE Division of Innovation and Choice

Kerri Pickett Hoffman, Idaho Virtual Academy, Education Director

Dee Sarton, KTVB Newscaster

Senator John Goedde, Idaho Legislature, Head of Senate Education Committee

Shirley Rau coordinated the first conference call regarding this study on August 13, 2007. Due to some technical problems with the phone system and time conflicts, not all Advisory Committee members were able to attend the conference call.

Present at the conference call were:

Tom Luna, Shirley Rau, Luci Willets, Tamara Baysinger, Ken Burgess, and two representatives from NWREL, Dr. Changhua Wang and Dr. Nicole Taylor. Senator John Goedde sent his written responses to the conference agenda questions.

At the beginning of the conference call, Shirley Rau gave a brief overview of charter schools in Idaho and told the attendees that the study is to be completed by September 2008. The purpose of the conference call is to discuss what we have already known about Idaho charter schools and what questions we want to address in this study.

Tom Luna started the discussion by saying that Idaho has already passed the debate whether we need to have charter schools or not. We don't want to spend a lot of time determining whether charter schools are valuable in our state. We would like to use the results of the study to continue to improve current charter schools and shape the future of

charter schools in our state. Conference attendees agreed with his view. With that, attendees generated a list of potential questions that the study could address:

Overarching Questions

- How successful have Idaho charter schools been over the past 10 years? How is success defined? What indicators should be used to measure success? Ex., student achievement, parental satisfaction, and community satisfaction. Should charter schools be compared with traditional schools that serve the same geographic areas and/or with other charter schools nationally? Should ‘brick and mortar’ charter schools be evaluated separately from virtual charter schools?

Parent Perspectives

- How satisfied are parents of charter school students? What factors influence parents’ decisions to enroll their children in charter schools instead of traditional schools and vice versa? For parents who have taken their children out of charter schools, what are the reasons? How long do families continue to enroll their children in charter school—does participation in charter schools span generations?

Teacher Perspectives

- How satisfied are teachers who work at charter schools? In particular, what is the perception of teachers who have taught at both traditional schools and charter schools regarding classroom behavior, class sizes, student academic achievement, etc.? What types of incentives and/or barriers are in place for teachers of charter schools in terms of salary, certification requirements, etc.?

Policy Issues

- What are the financial implications of operating charter schools? How much money are they receiving and how are they using the money?
- What are legislative barriers and facilitators for developing and operating charter schools in Idaho? How does Idaho legislation regarding charter schools compare with other states? How quickly/slowly are charter schools in Idaho developing and expanding compared with charter schools in other states? How does the process for starting a charter school in Idaho compare with other state? How does the process impact charter development and quality? How does the current cap on the number of charter schools allowed in Idaho affect their success and overall growth? How are facilities for charter schools funded and how does funding affect their success?

Translation of Best Practices

- Are best practices and innovative ideas developed in charter schools transferring to traditional schools? If not, why? In what ways are magnet schools related to charter schools—are magnet schools being created as a result of charter schools? Are there other changes in traditional school programming that have resulted as a result of charter schools, i.e. special programs with an emphasis on arts,

accelerated learning, or in-district choice allowing teachers to attend schools outside their attendance areas.

What is the link between various quality indicators and student achievement?

1. Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Accountability
2. Founding and Governance
3. School Leadership and Management
4. Business, Finance and Accounting (including state funding)
5. Special Populations
6. School Culture and Climate (leadership, character, community service)
7. Statewide Policy Environment
8. Other: Parent and Teacher Satisfaction, Years in Operation, Authorizer Support